

Cottage Grove Sentinel

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THE MERRIAM RECALL.

On March 19 the voters of Lane county will say whether or not they wish to recall Howard Merriam, member of the house.

If Mr. Merriam should be recalled, it is probable that movements will be started elsewhere in Oregon and in other states to recall state and national legislators who have failed to support the Townsend old age plan.

In these trying times, when we are endeavoring to cut expenses to the bone, this county is to be put to an expense of \$4,000 or more for this recall election that is supposed to decide whether or not Mr. Merriam deceived Townsend officials in this county when he said he would expedite Townsend old age pension legislation in the Oregon legislature.

The move against Mr. Merriam was not started because he refused to vote for the Townsend plan. No move has been started against other legislators from this county who could not see their way to support that plan.

So the question merely is: Did Merriam lie?

Merriam himself seems not to have said a word upon the subject. He evidently is not greatly concerned. He has attended to his knitting and no one has charged that he has not made a splendid legislator. If he should be recalled, it would mean little or nothing to him, for such a recall would attach no stain to his character. He seems not to be politically ambitious. If he were, he probably could run again on his record and be elected. Even if he is recalled, he will have served his time as a legislator, and the recall will have accomplished nothing, unless it does encourage those who have threatened recall moves against other legislators.

The issue is: Did Merriam lie or not? His friends claim he did exactly what he promised to do, that he did expedite the proposed Townsend legislation. His opponents claim that his promise to expedite the legislation meant that he would vote for it.

After we have spent our \$4,000 we won't know whether he lied or whether he did not. Each of us will have the same opinion he had before regardless of the outcome.

The odds favor the recall, because it is likely that Townsend plan supporters will be out in numbers, while others will not care to go to the polls to vote upon whether a man lied or whether he did not, especially when the result will settle absolutely nothing.

Those who go to the polls should ask themselves: "Did Merriam lie or did he not lie?" If they believe he has not been found guilty of that offense, they should vote against the recall. Voters who believe he did lie, or who are in doubt, should ask themselves, "Is it worth \$4,000 to a county to convict a man of lying?" If the answer is "no," they should vote against the recall regardless of whether or not they believe he lied, thereby discouraging further spending of county funds in this manner.

This further question should be asked: Is it the purpose of the recall to oust a man who is charged with lying, or who fails to vote the way the voter believes he should? If the answer to this is "no," an emphatic "no" vote should be cast on the proposed recall. In the opinion of The Sentinel it would have been better to save the \$4,000 and use it to pay old age pensions.

DEBATE TEAM WINS.

The Sentinel may be old fashioned, but it can't help but feel that the spirit of a school and the quality of education its students are getting is indicated more by the performance of debate teams than by that of athletic teams.

It seems to this writer that it takes more spirit to be a success-

ful debater, for an athlete has the crowd cheering for him, while the debater has to, more or less, go it alone. We all like athletics and enjoy the play and physical exhilaration, but the debater has to sit down by himself and make the old think tank do tricks. However, he or she has the satisfaction of knowing that he or she is doing that which is going to make it easier for him or her in future contacts with the world, that is going to make it easier for him or her to meet problems of after life. He or she is putting something into his or her head that is going to give him or her added mental power. After all, isn't that what schools are for? Or are we altogether too old fashioned?

Cottage Grove debaters won seven out of ten meets and nearly won the eighth. They were outsmarted only by Eugene high school, which won every meet.

So here's a hand for the bright young men and women from Cottage Grove high who by their forensic ability and mental alertness have put their school on the map. They ought to at least be recognized by a chamber of commerce dinner or something in their honor.

Lane county now has two tabloid weekly newspapers, the Junction City Times having adopted that form. This is not in imitation of The Sentinel, however, as Editor Tommy Nelson, unknown to The Sentinel, had planned going tabloid before The Sentinel thought of doing so. The Times was a mighty good paper before. It is better now.

"Railroads are putting on faster and faster trains until some day they will succeed in beating the automobiles to the crossings."—Olympia, Wash., Olympian.

The trouble is they're making faster automobiles too.

If this old age pension business isn't settled pretty soon we'll have so many gray hairs that we'll have no difficulty as passing for pension age.

It is declared United States coins will some day be rare. We haven't seen any of 'em around for a long time as it is.

The fellows who discuss monetary questions with greatest finality would lose their \$5 on the first move.

The depression hasn't yet cost as much as the big war, but we've worried a whole lot more about it.

PRESERVE OUR RELICS.

To the Editor: The "Days of '49" celebration held here last spring demonstrated that we have in Cottage Grove and vicinity plenty of relics of pioneer days to warrant an effort to arrange for their being kept in the community. Everyone who attended enjoyed that celebration, but without the relics it would have been impossible.

We shouldn't let solicitors from Eugene and other places carry them away. Material of this kind becomes more valuable as the years go by, so owners will not lose by holding it, while at the same time performing a service to the community in preserving this link with a day that is gone.

We will want these relics to use in another pioneer celebration soon, and they will look better on display in your own town every two or three years and in your own home in the meantime.

DAN HAMANT.

O. M. ANSWERS BILL.

To the Editor: I thank you for your recent interview with your aid and abettor, Rujada Bill, be-whiskered philosopher from Layng creek. Thank you, Bill, thank you kindly, sir, for your complimentary remarks. It is so seldom I get anything of the kind I was struck speechless.

There is much truth in the saying, "Any fool can ask questions that the most intelligent can't answer." You suggest a problem no man can answer, then go to the other extreme and ask questions any fool can answer. I will answer them and then ask one or two. When two fools get to asking questions, it is going to be hard sledding for the smart alecks. You express the hope that I might show how the plan might work despite the human element. No, Bill, I just kaint do hit. The plan is connected wholly and solely with human beings, so hit kaint be did. It would be just as sensible to talk about fighting a war with the human element left out.

Why are business interests afraid of the plan? If they are,

that's an easy one. It is for the same reason that you and the editor of The Sentinel are afraid. They have bears in their belfry and are obsessed with the hallucination that the bears are under the business bed. This attitude is not backed up, so far as I have seen, by a single undisputed fact or a sentence of logical argument.

Why do you conclude that a \$200 pension would be less stable than a \$25 pension? The amount of business created by a \$200 pension to sustain it would be as much greater in proportion as \$200 is greater than \$25.

You believe that if some kind of adequate old age pension had been adopted 25 years ago most of the suffering of the depression would have been averted. There can be no question about that. But what is adequate? If you know of one, or can formulate one, trot it out and, if it is better than the Townsend plan, I'll support it, tooth and toenail. If you can't do this, stop fighting the Townsend plan. Your statement above is true, and it is equally true that if the Townsend plan had been adopted at that time there would have been no depression at all for the dollars would have been kept continually at work, under which condition business could not have stopped.

Mr. Editor, you might give Bill another interview, so he can explain this seemingly inconsistent attitude. Better give him two interviews, for I can imagine the set of his jaw, the click of his tongue an' kin jist see him as he sits cross-legged, rolling a wad of tobacco round among his molars, ever now en then landin' a big gob of jooze in th' nearest knot-hole, enjoying life to the limit while he dispenses wisdom et every squirt. I shore enjoy these here interviews, even when I don't agree with him, fer I know he's sincere and honest.

No doubt the Townsend plan is not perfect in every detail. It would be nothing short of a miracle if it were, but neither has any other great enterprise been perfect at the start. Aviation was anything but perfect in the beginning, but the Wright brothers had the right principle, and practice developed the weaknesses as nothing else could, and they were corrected and today we are navigating the air as perfectly as vessels navigate the water. Just so with the Townsend plan. The principle is right and nothing else matters, because practice will develop the weaknesses and the corrections will be simple and easy.

O. M. KEM.

(Note.—This is a portion of Mr. Kem's reply to Rujada Bill. The remainder will appear next week.)

"College Rhythm" Is Coming

"College Rhythm," which comes to the Arcade Sunday and Monday, is a college comedy with a background of beautiful girls, choruses and hit tunes.

The story deals with the college rivalry of a piccolo player and an all-American halfback who love the same girl. When they graduate they carry their feud and their collegiate ideas over into the department store business.

Under the impetus furnished by Penner, Ross and Oakie, their respective department stores are gradually transformed into campuses with girls, bands and football teams.

The big football game between the competing stores serves to bring the two rivals together and to convince them that they have been loving the wrong girls. With their romantic difficulties settled, the dispute is at an end.

Living Stone

Living stone is a term applied in sculpture to stone in its native or original position as contrasted with marble or granite which has been quarried. The Lion of Lucerne in Switzerland, the Confederate Memorial on Stone Mountain in Georgia and the Rushmore Memorial in South Dakota are among the famous pieces of sculpture carved from living rock.

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